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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,020	04/27/2001	Gilles Bellaton	13220.005001;P5840	1929
32615	7590	12/16/2004	EXAMINER	
OSHA & MAY L.L.P./SUN 1221 MCKINNEY, SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			WINDER, PATRICE L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2145	

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/844,020	BELLATON ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Patrice Winder	2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2001.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07-30-01</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The term "limited" in claims 1, 16 and 32 is a relative term, which renders the claims indefinite. The term "limited" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. No specific amount of "persistent storage" is defined as "limited".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 9-10, 16-20, 24-25, 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vigil et al., USPN 5,758,343 (hereafter referred to as Vigil).

4. Regarding claim 1, 16, 31, 32, Vigil taught a method of entry distribution (abstract), comprising:

receiving requests by chaining backend from an original client (column 2, lines 4-10, column 3, lines 12-14, column 4, lines 48-51);  
forwarding requests from the chaining backend to a remote server (column 3, lines 16-22, column 4, lines 48-51); and

returning results from the remote server to the original client (column 3, lines 22-24, column 5, lines 11-18); wherein the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer with limited persistent storage capabilities (column 4, lines 32-34, 41-48).

5. Regarding dependent claim 2, 17, Vigil taught the method of claim 1, wherein the remote server is a plurality of remote servers (column 5, lines 2-3, 19-23).
6. Regarding dependent claim 3, 18, Vigil taught the method of claim 1, wherein standard LDAP operations are supported (column 4, lines 64-66).
7. Regarding dependent claim 4, 19, Vigil taught the method of claim 1, wherein the entry distribution is hidden from the original client (column 4, lines 41-51).
8. Regarding dependent claim 5, 20, Vigil taught the method of claim 1, wherein the chaining backend coexists with other backends (column 5, lines 19-26).
9. Regarding dependent claim 9, 24, Vigil taught the method of claim 1, further comprising: maintaining a pool of connections to the remote server by the chaining backend (column 3, lines 16-17, column 4, lines 48-51).
10. Regarding dependent claim 10, 25, Vigil taught the method of claim 9, wherein the pool of connections for a bind connection is a specific pool of connections dedicated for chaining of bind request (column 5, lines 2-10).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 6-8, 21-23, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vigil in view of Ambrosini et al., USPN 6,633,872 B2 (hereafter referred to as Ambrosini).

13. Regarding dependent claim 6, 21, Vigil taught the using a graphical user interface to manage multiple remote servers through a chaining backend wherein setting a password is one of management functions (column 6, lines 14-20, 30-42). Conventionally, passwords are used to authenticate. Vigil does not specifically teach implementing pass-through authentication. However, Ambrosini taught implementing pass-through authentication (column 10, lines 9-12, column 11, lines 8-14, 39-42, 60-64). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that incorporating Ambrosini's access control for directory servers in Vigil system for chaining requests would have improved the mechanism used to restrict access. The motivation would have been to provide the increased granularity of access control to the directory services.

14. Regarding dependent claim 7, 22, Vigil taught the using a graphical user interface to manage multiple remote servers through a chaining backend wherein

setting a password is one of management functions (column 6, lines 14-20, 30-42).

Conventionally passwords are used to implement access control policies. Vigil does not specifically teach evaluating and enforcing access controls by the remote server that holds the results. However, Ambrosini taught evaluating and enforcing access controls by the remote server that holds the results (column 10, lines 9-12, column 11, lines 8-14, 39-42, 60-64). For motivation for combination see claim 7, above.

15. Regarding dependent claim 8, 23, Vigil taught the using a graphical user interface to manage multiple remote servers through a chaining backend wherein setting a password is one of management functions (column 6, lines 14-20, 30-42). Conventionally, passwords are used to implement access control policies. Vigil does not specifically teach evaluating and enforcing a plurality of access controls. However, Ambrosini taught evaluating and enforcing a plurality of access controls (column 7, lines 22-33). For motivation for combination see claim 7, above.

16. Claims 11, 13-14, 26, 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vigil in view of Harvey, USPN 6,052,681 (hereafter referred to as Harvey).

17. Regarding dependent claim 11, 26, Vigil taught the chaining backend managing the requests initiated by system clients (column 3, lines 10-24). Vigil does not specifically teach checking the status of the requests. However, Harvey taught examining an operation state to check whether an operation is abandoned (column 39, lines 14-18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that incorporating Harvey's search parameters in Vigil's system for

chaining requests to remote servers would have improved system robustness. The motivation would have been to detect and report system errors as soon as possible.

18. Regarding dependent claim 13, 28, Vigil taught the chaining backend managing the requests initiated by system clients and forwarded to the remote server (column 3, lines 10-24). Vigil does not specifically teach forwarding a search size limit parameter. However, Harvey taught forwarding a search size limit parameter (column 39, lines 3-13). For motivation for combination see claim 11, above.

19. Regarding dependent claim 14, 29, Vigil taught the chaining backend managing the requests initiated by system clients and forwarded to the remote server (column 3, lines 10-24). Vigil does not specifically teach updating a time limit parameter. However, Harvey taught updating a time limit parameter to account for additional processing delay introduced by the multiplexer; and forwarding the updated time limit parameter to the remote server (column 39, lines 3-13). For motivation for combination see claim 11, above.

20. Claims 12 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vigil in view of Aldred et al., USPN 6,209,036 B1 (hereafter referred to as Aldred).

21. Regarding dependent claim 12, Vigil taught configuring the multiplexer to return the results from the remote server holding the results (column 5, lines 14-18). Vigil does not specifically teach returning a referral to the remote server. However, Aldred taught returning a referral that points to the remote server holding the results (column 9, lines 15-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that incorporating Aldred's referral in Vigil's system for chaining

requests would have improved management of the result information. The motivation would have been to provide better access to result information obtained from remote web pages.

22. Claims 15 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vigil as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ambrosini, Harvey and Aldred.

23. The language of claims 15 and 30 is substantially the same as previously rejected claims 6-8, 11-14, above. Therefore, claims 15 and 30 are rejected on the same rationale as previously rejected claims 6-8, 11-14, above.

### ***Conclusion***

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Arnold et al., USPN 6,167,449: taught a network service location manager (NSL manager) coupled to plug-in that process requests to particular service identification protocols (SIP) including a plug-in for lightweight directory access protocol (ldap); and

b. Byrne et al., USPN 6,408,306 B1: taught requesting a directory search to obtain one or more distinguished names and then selecting one of the distinguished names to use in an LDAP directory operation.

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrice Winder whose telephone number is 703-272-3935. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 am-7:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey can be reached on 703-272-3896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Patrice Winder  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2145

December 13, 2004